

President : I would draw the honourable member's attention to Rule 11 which says that no question shall be asked except under the following conditions, namely, it shall not contain arguments and it shall not be of excessive length. The honourable member will please follow the rules and put questions in an intelligible form.

Mr. Nedumangad R. Kesavan Nair : May I know whether the Government are in receipt of information regarding the polling officers having acted irregularly in respect of open votes recorded in favour of Mr. Sankara Pillai?

Mr. C. O. Madhavan : No such complaint has been received by Government.

Mr. Nedumangad R. Kesavan Nair : May I know whether the Government are aware of the assaults of Mr. C. Thomas and Mr. Bhaskara Panikkar of that place?

President : Will the Police Commissioner please say whether he has received any complaint regarding that matter.

Mr. M. Ramachandra Rao : No, Sir.

Mr. Kochikkal P. Balakrishnan Tampi : May I know whether any officer has been asked to make an enquiry into the matter?

Mr. C. O. Madhavan : Such of the complaints as deserved enquiry in the opinion of Government have been referred to the Dewan Peishkar, Quilon, for making necessary enquiries.

Mr. Kochikkal P. Balakrishnan Tampi : May I know whether there is any complaint stating that he had been the chief worker for Mr. P. Narayana Pillai?

Mr. C. O. Madhavan : No such complaint has been received by Government.

Complaints regarding the Koonan Anjily bund.

98. ***Mr. N. V. Chacko** : Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether they have received petitions from the Rev. Father Gheevanughese Kceramkuzhi, B. A. and others, dated 18th January 1938, 4th Makaram 1113, 5th Makaram 1113 and 22nd January 1938 relating to the Koonan Anjily bund in the Kunnath nad taluk ;

(b) whether the petitions pray that the bund at Koonan Anjily should be erected every year before the 5th Vrischikam ;

(c) whether the petitions complain that, in 1113, the bund was erected by the Irrigation Department only in the month of Dhanu, thus allowing salt water to enter the paddy lands and destroy the existing cultivation and make the next two cultivations impracticable ;

[Mr. N. V. Chacko.]

(d) whether the petitions pray for remission of tax of the paddy lands in which salt water entered by the late construction of the bunds and destroyed the cultivation ; and

(e) who is responsible for the delay in constructing the bund at Koonan Anjily this year ?

Mr. R. Krishnaswami Rao : (a) Yes. Two petitions, dated 18-1-1938 and 22-1 1938, were received.

(b) Yes.

(c) The bund was erected in 1113 only in Dhanu. But no salt water entered the paddy lands.

(d) Yes.

(e) No one can be held responsible as the monsoon rains extended up to the middle of Vrischikam this year and consequently the bund could be put up only early in Dhanu.

Mr. N. V. Chacko : May I know the extent of land benefited by that bund ?

Mr. R. Krishnaswami Rao : 1860 acres of land on Travancore side and 741 acres on the Cochin side.

Maistries in the P. W. D.

99. ***Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar :** Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing :

(a) the total number of maistries who were serving in the P. W. D. in the year 1112, and the total of such maistries who have put in more than 15 years' service ;

(b) the total amount paid to them as salary or allowance in that year ;

(c) the average amount received by a maistry in the year 1112 ; and

(d) the source from which they are paid their pay or allowance ?

Mr. R. Krishnaswami Rao : (a) The total number was 953. Those with more than 15 years' service were 312.

(b) Rs. 2,06,723.

(c) Rs. 18 per mensem.

(d) Item contingency and petty supervision in the estimates for works and repairs.

Mr. K. M. Korah (*Vaikom, Kottayam and Changanacherry cum Peermade*) : May I know whether those maistries are Government servants ?

Mr. R. Krishnaswami Rao : They may be considered as Government servants in as much as they are allowed :

(1) 14 days casual leave.

(2) They are given gratuity allowance when they retire.